

February 4, 1975

SENATOR LUEDTKE: That is something, Senator Murphy, that should be left to our rules. I want to take it out of the Constitution. This does not belong in the Constitution. This belongs to this body to satisfy our own rules. In fact, we're working on our rules now. We are so hamstrung by the Constitution in this area, we can't do what Senator Burbach wants to do even. I'm sure you're gonna run into a problem when you try to do what Senator Burbach wants to do. I hope he can do it. I hope he can do it anyway. We need to pass a constitutional amendment to say, we do not have to have mandatory final reading. Then we can do what you want to do. We can do what Senator Burbach wants to do. We can do what we all want to do, which would be to facilitate the efficiency of this Legislature.

SENATOR MURPHY: I would only say to that, Senator, unfortunately so much of what we do is under suspension of rules and fortunately we cannot suspend the Constitution.

PRESIDENT: Senator Dworak.

SENATOR DWORAK: Mr. President, I rise in opposition to this constitutional revision or constitutional amendment in that I think it's an important part in our checks and balances in our legislative process. It gives us one final chance to look at the bill. We seem concerned over the credibility or the image of this body. I think one thing that hurts the image is every two years sending this thing back to the voters. We did in 1971 now we're asking to do it again and saying are you really sure you mean what you told us in 1971. How many times do we put this thing back to the voters? Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I am supporting Senator Luedtke's bill. I would like to tell Senator Murphy that this body does suspend the Constitution, as was demonstrated a few days ago. Senator Luedtke, would you answer a question if it meets with the Chairs approval?

SENATOR LUEDTKE: Yes sir.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: For informational purposes, does this provision put into the Constitution, requiring the reading of bills because during those days many members of the Legislature were unable to read?

SENATOR LUEDTKE: That is correct.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: I just wanted that into the record. Thank you very much.

SENATOR LUEDTKE: I might add to that, Senator Chambers, that I personally have checked the territorial history of Nebraska, including going down into the subterranean chambers of this building and looked at some of those early bills. If anybody would like to do it, I suggest they try and try to read them. Because they were hand writ. If any of you would like to read the handwriting that were those